

Stone Rural District Council.

ECCLESHALL DIVISION.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to your notice my Annual Report on the Sanitary conditions, &c., of the Eccleshall District for the year 1905.

The Tables of Statistics required by the Local Government Board are enclosed herewith.

There were 128 births registered during the year, an increase of 11 on those of the preceding year and giving a birth-rate of 22·8 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 20·8 for the year 1904. The average birth-rate for the past ten years was 23·6 per 1,000. BIRTH-RATE.

The net deaths registered at all ages belonging to the district were 72, 5 less than for the year 1904, and giving a death-rate of 12·8 per 1,000 of the population, as against 13·9 per 1,000 for 1904. The average number of deaths for the past ten years was 75, with a rate of 13·1 per 1,000. DEATH-RATE.

The total number of deaths under one year was 15, an increase of 5 upon those of the preceding year, and giving an infantile death-rate, per 1,000 of births registered, of 117. This was above the average for the past ten years, the figures being, deaths 13, and rate per 1,000 births, 99·2. A new Table (Table V.) of the Local Government Board, shews the causes of infant mortality in weeks and months under one year. This does not call for any special comments from me, but from my experience in general practice I do not see much improvement in the feeding of infants, and I hope the time is not far distant when practical hygiene, including the feeding of infants, will form part of the curriculum in our elementary schools. INFANTILE MORTALITY.

In each locality the numbers of births and deaths, and the rates per 1,000 of the estimated populations were as follows:— ECCLESHALL, estimated population 3,799; births 82, rate per 1,000, 21; deaths 50, rate per 1,000, 13; infant death-rate 109. SWYNNERTON, population 797; births 21, rate per 1,000, 26; deaths 11, rate per 1,000, 13; infant death-rate 142. STANDON, population 419; births 8, rate per 1,000, 19; deaths 7, rate per 1,000, 16; infant death-rate 125. CHEBSEY AND COLD NORTON, population 580; births 17, rate per 1,000, 29; deaths 4, rate per 1,000, 6·7; infant death-rate 117.

ZYMOTIC
DEATH-RATE.

There were three deaths under this heading during the year, one due to scarlet fever, one to whooping cough and one to diphtheria, and giving a zymotic death-rate of ·53 per 1,000 of the estimated population, compared with ·35 for 1904. The following table gives the comparative figures for the past ten years.

Table I.

Years.	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Deaths registered at all ages.	4	3	5	5	5	6	1	1	2	3
Rate per 1,000 of the population.	·60	·40	·81	·80	·70	1·0	·17	·17	·35	·53

VACCINATION.

The following table shews the results of vaccination in the district from the middle of 1904 to the middle of 1905.

Table II.

Two Districts.	No. of Births	Successfully Vaccinated	Died Unvaccinated	Postponed	Insusceptible to Vaccination	Left District Unvaccinated	Conscientious Objectors	Still Unvaccinated
Eccleshall and Swynnerton.	130	121	7	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Notifications.

There were twelve notifications received under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act during the year, compared with nineteen in the preceding year. Of these, one was diphtheria, ten scarlet fever, and one enteric fever.

DIPHTHERIA.

The case of diphtheria occurred at Cotes Heath (Cranbury) and terminated fatally. There was no bacterial examination of throat discharge. The house was disinfected by your sanitary inspector after the death. The row of cottages in which this case occurred are a rough and rather unclean lot. The water supply is good (from Hatton Waterworks). The only possible cause to be discovered was a defective sewage cesspool about thirty feet away from the house in the garden.

There was no epidemic of this disease. The cases occurred at long intervals and scattered about the district. One at Cotes Heath, one at Walk Mill, two at Wootton, one at Chebsey, and five in Eccleshall. With the exception of the two first cases all were treated at home, six others would have gone to the Isolation Hospital, but it was either being used for diphtheria cases or was already full with scarlet fever. Four of the cases were imported, in the other cases the source of infection could not be traced. The disinfection seemed to be effectual in so far that there was no spread of the disease. The means used were, for clothing (when not burnt) disinfection in solution of carbolic acid and boiling after, and for the sick room and bedding, fumigation with sulphur. Three of these were disinfected by your sanitary inspector.

SCARLET
FEVER.

This case occurred at Yarnfield and was imported.

ENTERIC
FEVER.

This disease was prevalent at Swynnerton in the early part of the year and necessitated the closing of the schools for some weeks.

MEASLES.

Whooping-cough was very prevalent in many parts of the district, and in Eccleshall the schools were closed on account of the disease for six weeks. I do not think that school closure is any use as a preventative measure to the spread of this disease and I should not advise it except when the numbers absent on account of it, are so great that it is useless carrying on the work of the school, as was the case in Eccleshall.

WHOOPIG
COUGH.

There were three deaths registered as being due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, compared with five in 1904. Two were in Eccleshall and one in Swynnerton parishes. This gives a phthisis death-rate of .53 per 1,000. There were three other deaths due to tuberculous disease not pulmonary, all in Eccleshall parish.

PHTHISIS.

Five deaths were registered uncertified, giving a death-rate of .89 per 1,000.

UNCERTIFIED
DEATHS.

I have analysed eight samples of drinking water. Four from new wells to newly-built dwelling houses, three were found to be pure and a water certificate granted, one was polluted. The supply at Hayes Farm, Butterson, has been improved. The public well at Croxton, in the lane to Woodwall Green, has been cleansed, properly enclosed and the pump fixed. The supply to the row of cottages in Stone Road, Eccleshall, which was found to be polluted in July last, has been improved. At Hilcote Farm Cottages the supply is bad.

WATER
SUPPLY.

Two cottages, one at Cranbury and one at Pershall, were condemned under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, the former was closed and the latter repaired. Another cottage in Kempsage Lane has been repaired after notice.

DWELLING
HOUSES.

GENERAL.

The open drain in the Castle Meadow was cleansed out in March and a quantity of solid matter removed. I am glad to find your Council have given notice of prosecution to occupiers whose premises adjoin this drain for depositing refuse therein. Many occupiers, especially at the lower end appear to use the drain as a receptacle for all sorts of refuse. Since the open gratings in the Eccleshall streets have again been regularly disinfected there has been far less nuisance from them.

FACTORY AND
WORKSHOP
ACT.

Eighteen premises are registered in the district under this Act. They have been periodically inspected. No legal proceedings had to be taken. Formal notice had to be issued for uncleanness in the case of one bakehouse and the defect was remedied.

SANITARY
INSPECTOR'S
REPORT.

From your Sanitary Inspector's report:—fourteen dwelling houses were inspected for foul conditions, structural defects, overcrowding and unfit for habitation; formal notices were issued for nuisances in ten cases and in nine of these the nuisances were abated. Two common lodging houses, 57 dairies, milkshops and cowsheds, nine bakehouses, seven slaughter houses were periodically inspected, and in five cases nuisances were found and formal notices issued and four of these were abated. Seventy-four inspections of ashpits and privies, deposits of refuse and manure, were made, in 52 cases, formal notices were issued for nuisances and in 44 of these the nuisances were abated. For defective house drainage, water supply, pigsties, &c., 25 inspections were made, 20 formal notices for nuisances issued, and 17 of these were abated. Four houses were disinfected after infectious disease, one at Cotes Heath, one at Chebsey, one at Swynnerton, and one at Walk Mill. The total of inspections made was 188, 87 formal notices for nuisances were issued, in 74 of which the nuisances were abated.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HOPE WILKES GOSSE,

March 12th, 1906.

M. O. H.